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[0103] The weight lever stabilizing rail 93 is located above the weight lever 21.

The weight lever stabilizing rail 93 ~~[[are]]~~ is secured at ~~[[its]]~~ both of its ends to the piano body by brackets 95 so as to extend over a plurality of keys 3. ~~Gross~~ A cross section of the weight lever stabilizing rail 93 is almost rectangular. The underneath of the weight lever stabilizing rail 93 on the side (to the left side in Fig. 6) opposite to the player side (~~[[left]]~~ to the right side in Fig. 6) is curved. In other words, the undersurface of the weight lever stabilizing rail 93 is curved upward toward the direction opposite to the player side. Felt 97 for inhibiting any potential hitting sound is provided on the entire undersurface of the weight lever stabilizing rail 93.

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1-11. (CANCELED)

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A string-striking device for a piano comprising:

a long weight lever, one for every key, which is disposed along a length direction of the key at an upper part on a side opposite to a playing side of the key and which is arranged such that one end of the weight lever is fixed to a piano body so as to allow the weight lever to freely swing up and down, and the other open end, which can be vertically displaced, is brought into contact with an upper surface of the key and applies its own weight on the key;

a long lifting rail disposed between the weight lever and the key so that the lifting rail extends over a plurality of keys and is fixed to the piano body in such a manner that, by lifting the weight levers, the lifting rail can displace the weight levers from a normal position, where the levers can touch the keys, to a holding position, where the levers are separated from the keys;

a first end of a connecting member connected to the lifting rail and an other end extending outside the piano, the lifting rail being displaceable by operating the other end of the connecting member outside the piano; and

the other end of the connecting member being a playing pedal.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The string-striking device for a piano according to claim 12, further comprising a long stopper rail that is secured to the piano body above the weight lever so that the stop rail extends over a plurality of weight levers and restricts upward swing of the plurality of weight levers.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The string-striking device for a piano according to claim 12, further comprising a moving mechanism that moves the weight lever along the length direction of the key.

15-17. (CANCELED)

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The string-striking device for a piano according to claim 12, wherein a part at which the weight lever touches the key comprises a roller that can roll along the upper surface of the key.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The string-striking device for a piano according to claim 12, wherein a lever receiving screw is provided on a surface of the key facing the weight lever while a frictional reducing layer is provided on an undersurface of the weight lever facing the lever receiving screw, the friction reducing

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layer being made from a material that allows a frictional force between the lever receiving screw and the weight lever to be smaller than the frictional force produced by direct contact there between, and

the friction reducing layer is made from a material that allows the frictional force to be smaller as the friction reducing layer is provided closer to a rotation shaft which is a center of swing of the weight lever.

20-22. (CANCELED).